lakhs and the interest accrued thereon was Rs. 78 lakhs (figures are provisional).

(c) Under the present arrangements, the cheques are signed by responsible members of the Executive Committee and the officials of the Apparel Export Promotion Council.

News-item captioned "Ganapathi Export Director held"

2207. SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN SHAWL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item capitioned "Ganapathi Export Director Held" which appeared in the Economic Times of 5th March, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to take strict action against such other exporters in Calcutta who have indulged in fraudulent imports particularly of Silk Yarns without payment of import duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Customs Officials in Calcutta have detected a case of suspected evasion of customs duty by M/s. Ganapathi Exports Limited amounting to Rs. 67 lakhs by mis-declaring a consignment of prime quality G.P. sheets as secondary and defective grade G.P. sheets. Investigations in the case have revealed that the invoice value was declared at £ 125 per Metric Tonne instead of the actual value of U.S. 481 Per Metric Tonne. Shri Om Prakash Agarwal, Director of the firm has been arrested.

(c) Stringent action is taken against any person indulging in fraudulent imports. Apart from confiscation of goods involved and imposition of personal penalties, prosecution in the Courts of law is pursued and in appropriate cases detention under COFEPOSA is also resorted to.

Defrauding of workers by certain Garment Export concerns

2208. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of defrauding of workers by certain garment export concerns in Delhi in the matter of payment of workers salary and bonus;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of employees of M/s. Maharani of India, Maya Puri, New Delhi have resigned or were retrenched from service during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the workers of the above concern have not been paid their salaries and bonus dues inspite of repeated requests; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Information which is being collected from the Delhi Administration will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

(b) to (d) According to Delhi Administration during the period 1982-83 to 1984-85, 50 workers of the Establishment who either resigned or whose services were terminated left after collecting their legal dues from the management. However, a complaint was received regarding non-payment of bonus to workers by the management for the year 1974-75 onwards. This is being processed under the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. Legal action would be taken in case any irregularity is found.